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ITT Executive Enters Innocent Plea to Perjury

Associated Press

An official of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. pleaded innocent yesterday to charges he lied to a Senate subcommittee that was investigating ITT's role in Central Intelligence Agency activities to influence elections in Chile in the early 1970s.

Edward J. Gerrity Jr., 54, of Larchmont, N.Y., senior vice president of ITT, has been charged by the Justice Department in a criminal information with three counts of perjury and three other felony counts.

A co-defendant, Robert Berrellez, 58, of Chatsworth, Calif., ITT's public relations director in the Southwest, pleaded innocent to the same charges on March 29.

Each man faces up to five years in prison on each count if convicted.

The two are accused of lying to a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee that was investigating U.S. efforts to disrupt the election of Salvador Allende, a Marxist, as Chile's president in 1970.

Gerrity testified on March 22, 1973, to the Senate subcommittee that a proposed \$1 million ITT offer to the CIA in 1970 was to promote agriculture and housing in Chile and not to block Allende's election. It was later disclosed that ITT had given at least \$350,000 to support Allende's opponents.